

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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MCE-00 IO-13 DOE-11 SOE-02 /115 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL
ARA/PAN:JHAAHR (DRAFT)
ARA/AND:CFULLER
ARA/ECA:FRONDON (DRAFT)
ARA/RPP:JPARKER (DRAFT)
ACDA:LWATSON (DRAFT)
PM/SSP/PPERENYT(DRAFT)
ARA:FMCNEIL (DRAFT)
ARA/PPC/RLBRUCE
-----066742 192155Z /73

P 192058Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE, BL, CI, EC, CO, VE, PN, AR

SUBJECT: ARMS LIMITATION UNDER AYACUCHO DECLARATION

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REF: QUITO 0074 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED OVER EXTENT OF RECENT AND CONTINUING ARMS PURCHASES, AND DELIVERIES OF ARMS ALREADY IN PIPELINE, BY SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THESE PURCHASES AND DELIVERIES, WHILE MODEST IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, NEVERTHELESS TEND TO EXACERBATE

REGIONAL TENSIONS, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN PERU AND THREE OF ITS NEIGHBORS: ECUADOR, CHILE, AND BOLIVIA.

2. ALL ADDRESSEES ARE IN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SIGNATORIES TO THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO, WHICH INCLUDES A STATEMENT OF INTENT BY THE EIGHT NATIONS CONCERNED TO AVOID FURTHER ACQUISITION OF OFFENSIVE ARMS. USG HAS EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL FOR THE STATED OBJECTIVE OF THIS DECLARATION AND THIS SUPPORT CONTINUES UNDIMINISHED. WHAT IS LACKING, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE SIGNATORIES HAVE YET TO GO BEYOND THEIR INITIAL DECLARATION TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT PRACTICAL MEASURES TO GIVE EFFECT TO ITS LOFTY PURPOSE. FOR THAT MATTER - WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SERVICE-TO-SERVICE CONTACTS, VISITS OF HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND THE LIKE - THE SIGNATORIES HAVE NOT MET SINCE THEIR INITIAL SESSION IN LIMA IN 1975.
(MA-(N-1975.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO MAY BE ONLY A SYMBOLIC VEHICLE FOR BRINGING ABOUT A REDUCTION IN ACQUISITIONS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS AND THAT A REDUCTION IN TENSIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ANDEAN REGION, WOULD GET AT THE CAUSES, OR AT LEAST THE PRETEXTS, FOR THE RECENT UPRISING IN PURCHASES.

A. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, USG OBJECTIVES AT UN SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SESSION ON DISARMAMENT THIS SPRING WILL INCLUDE ATTEMPTING TO RESTRAIN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. THREE COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA ARE MEMBERS OF THE SSOD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND PERU), AND WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THESE AND OTHER MEMBERS WITH A HOPE OF GETTING SOME GENERAL LANGUAGE IN SSOD CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS SUPPORTING SUPPLIER-RECIPIENT COOPERATION IN RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

B. IN RECENT MONTHS DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF OTHER ARMS SUPPLIER NATIONS. ISSUES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED FRANKLY, AND USG CONCERNS HAVE BEEN MADE CLEAR REGARDING ARMS SALES TO THIRD WORLD, INCLUDING LATIN AMERICA.

C. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN REVIEWING OUR OWN ARMS SALES POLICY TOWARD THIRD WORLD, AND ADDRESSEES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF DECISIONS TAKEN TO DATE.

4. IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW THESE UN AND OTHER INITIATIVES PROSPER, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WORTHWHILE TO EXPLORE URGING THE AYACUCHO SIGNATORIES TO MOVE AHEAD IN LINE WITH

THEIR STATED AIMS. BE WOULD WELCOME YOUR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, AND INVITE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

A. HOW DOES YOUR HOST COUNTRY VIEW THE VIABILITY OF THE DECLARATION?

B. WOULD IT BE LIKELY TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO AN INITIATIVE BY ANOTHER MEMBER OR MEMBERS TO CONVENE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES, OR TO TAKE ANY OTHER PRACTICAL STEPS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECLARATION? WOULD YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT LIKELY BE WILLING TO TAKE ANY SUCH INITIATIVE?

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C. WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, MIGHT YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT ENVISION FOR OTHER NATIONS IN THE REGION WHICH ARE NOT SIGNATORIES TO THE DECLARATION? WOULD IT BE USEFUL TO CALL A MEETING

AND INVITE ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES TO ATTEND? IS THERE ANY LIKELIHOOD OF A USEFUL ROLE FOR THE OAS OR OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: ANDEAN PACT, SELA, ETC.?

D. LATIN AMERICA IS UNIQUE AS AN AREA OF LOW DEFENSE EXPENDITURES RELATIVE TO GNP; MOREOVER, THE REGION HAS AVOIDED RESORT TO MILITARY FORCE (EXCEPT FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN ;SOCCER WAR) SINCE THE 1940'S. THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO ALSO MAKES IT THE ONLY REGION IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS DECLARED ITSELF FREE FROM NUCLEAR ARMAMENT. WOULD YOUR HOST COUNTRY CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN A CALL FOR A LATIN-AMERICAN WIDE CONFERENCE PERHAPS SUPPORTIVE OF THE SSOD, WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE REGION'S BECOMING THE FIRST WHERE RESTRAINTS ARE EXERCISED IN ACQUIRING CONVENTIONAL ARMS?

E. WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, MIGHT YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT ENVISION FOR THE U.S., APART FROM EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM TIME TO TIME FOR AYACUCHO DECLARATION OBJECTIVES?

5. AFTER REVIEWING YOUR RESPONSES, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THIS AND RELATED ANDEAN PROBLEMS DURING UPCOMING CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1). ACCORDINGLY THIS SUBJECT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE AGENDA. AT THE MOMENT THIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AS AN IN-HOUSE EXERCISE, BUT POSTS MAY WISH TO MAKE SOME GENERALIZED INQUIRIES OF HOST GOVERNMENT AS A BASIS FOR REPLY. CHRISTOPHER

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